

HOUSEWIVES VICTIMS OF ICE GRAFT

Monopoly System Enabled Dealers To Set Own Price

Has your janitor been getting \$5 to permit a favored dealer to put ice in the refrigerator of your kitchen? Do you know that YOU pay him that \$5, indirectly?

If you wished, could you change ice men? Have you ever tried to do so? Were you aware of the existence of an extortionate "combine" of ice peddlers in your neighborhood?

Attorney General Ottinger has made an exhaustive probe of the ice graft. He has the situation in Brooklyn and the Rockaways well in hand. He is now working in Manhattan and The Bronx.

Means Money to YOU

Read Mr. Ottinger's own story, appearing serially in The GRAPHIC. His amazing revelations affect YOU. His investigators have been busy in your own vicinity. Learn how you may save money you have unwittingly poured into the rich coffers of a dishonest ice dealer.

By ALBERT OTTINGER Attorney General

(Written exclusively for The GRAPHIC.)
In proceeding under the Donnelly act I have always been mindful of the position of men in business; of their investment, their risks, their standing and their worth and importance to the community. It is my desire not to disturb or interfere with business, and I have observed all due caution in my investigations. But if a man is a violator of the law, he must take the consequences, and in that case name or position has meant nothing to me. The law has taken its course.

The facts disclosed in our preliminary inquiry of the ice situation in Brooklyn were presented to Justice Hagarty of the Supreme Court, who appointed Albert Conway a referee for the purpose of taking testimony. The complaints made were substantiated, but the investigation developed the fact that the manufacturers were not at fault.

Manufacturers Blameless

It was found that the manufacturers, comprising the Rubel Coal

MAKE DEALER WEIGH YOUR ICE; THE LAW GIVES YOU THIS RIGHT

Do you know it is your legal right to demand that your ice dealer weigh the ice he sells you, in your presence?

The law requires that he carry an approved scales at all times. If you believe you are being cheated, summon a member of your family or a neighbor, and make him weigh the ice before you.

If you suspect his scales are "doctored," use your own bathroom scales. Then, if your suspicions are verified, telephone the name of the cheating peddler to the office of Attorney General Ottinger.

Mr. Ottinger will thank you for this information. He has a "suspect list," with the names of many doubtful dealers of every borough. Your complaint will bring the cheater to justice, saving money for yourself and your neighbors.

and Ice Corporation, the Knickerbocker Ice Company and Michel Company were all manufacturing ice on a large scale, and were all independent of one another; that no monopoly or price-fixing combination existed between them in violation of the Donnelly act. This knowledge was developed in a series of conferences outside the hearings before the referee, and, so far as I was able to learn, they were selling ice to the trade or the peddlers at the lowest price possible, to wit: 100 pounds for 25 cents or a cake of 300 pounds for 75 cents.

We had to probe deeper for the real cause of complaint, and we found it in the combination of the peddlers.

Monopoly Exposed

The story of the outrageous monopoly perpetrated by the peddlers was disclosed in the seizure of their books, principally their by-laws. By the latter it was shown that they had Brooklyn divided into zones, and each member of the combination had his district in a zone. And into that district no other dealer dared attempt to sell ice. The penalty of such an infraction was left to the imagination.

Janitors and superintendents of apartment houses were in the pay of the combination; they got \$5 for each new tenant, and it was part of their business to see to it that the new tenant got his or her ice from the duly accredited member of the ice peddlers' combination. A housewife's complaint, in the circumstances, was absolutely hopeless. She had to be satisfied with the treatment of her iceman, and continue to take ice from him or go without ice. No other independent dealer dared to go into her apartment house. If the superintendent didn't stop him, the combination would find the way.

Peddlers Accused

From the ice manufacturers we turned to the ice peddlers, and after a brief preliminary investigation, haled them before Referee Conway for a hearing. They never appeared before Mr. Conway. They came to the office of the attorney

general with their attorneys, asking what they could do. They were told that there was only one thing to do: that they must dissolve their combination, which was an outrageous violation of the law.

The corporate and high-sounding name of the ice peddlers' combination was the Grand Council of the United Retail Ice Dealers' Association. Its members comprised the ice peddlers throughout Brooklyn, and the association was divided into ten councils, covering ten districts or zones, of Brooklyn. Each council had its own officers in accordance with the by-laws of the grand council, and the subsidiary council allotted to each member his territory, where he and no other dealer could sell ice. This individual member could do

as he pleased in his own territory. He could charge what he liked, and give what weight he choose. There was no redress from his abuses. The housewife was completely at his mercy, for she had to take ice from the member of the combination or go without. The association had the largest ice monopoly ever known, where the ice was sold direct to the consumer. The by-laws themselves were indisputable proof of the existence of the monopoly; and my answer to the pleadings of the ice men was that their association must go out of business immediately.

Papers in a suit to dissolve the corporation were drawn, and on the advice of their counsel the peddlers entered a confession of judgment.

Combine Dissolved

The combination was dissolved in court by Supreme Court Justice

Lewis L. Fawcett on June 28, and the officers and members enjoined from holding meetings or allotting territory, and the performance of their other acts contrary to law. If they persist in doing any of these acts, they will be in contempt of court, which is different from a violation of the Donnelly act. They can be punished for contempt of court.

The ice manufacturers entered into an agreement with me, contingent on the breaking up of the combination, to sell and deliver ice to the consumer at a decrease of five cents for every twenty-five

pounds, making the price of the latter ten cents, bringing the peddler into competition with the manufacturer and insuring cheap ice for Brooklyn for the summer.

(Follow Mr. Ottinger's startling story in Thursday's GRAPHIC.)

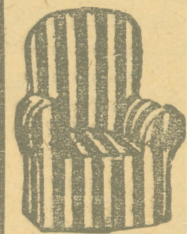
LEWIS W. DUNN DEAD

Lewis W. Dunn, 40, a national secretary of the Army and Navy Department of the Y. M. C. A., and engaged in Y. M. C. A. work for nearly twenty years, died Monday.

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FONCK PERFECTING DETAILS OF FLIGHT ACROSS ATLANTIC

Capt. Rene Fonck, French war ace who will leave New York in the Sikorsky seaplane S-35 on a non-stop flight to Paris late this month, is organizing every detail that the flight may be made with maximum speed and safety.

Having already selected Capt. Homer Berry as substitute pilot and Capt. Irwin to operate the radio instruments, Capt. Fonck now turns his attention to weather—a most vital concern in such an undertaking.

He has accordingly besought James H. Kimball, meteorologist of the Weather Bureau in New York, to make a weather map of the North Atlantic Ocean and its shores. Mr. Kimball, with the aid of radio reports from ships at sea, already has begun the job.

During the flight, Kimball, at a radio receiving and sending set, will try to keep in constant communication with ships. Their reports of weather he will relay to Capt. Irwin aboard the plane and thus keep the flyers foreadvised of what climatic conditions are ahead.

Police Sergeant Held in Assault

Held on a charge of assault in the Flatbush Court, Police Sergt. McVeigh of Brooklyn headquarters is free today in \$1,000 bail.

The complainant against the cop was James Twyford, K. of C. secretary. Twyford asserts that during a raid on the clubhouse of the First Voters' League he was beaten by the sergeant. At the time Twyford was arrested on a charge of keeping a gambling nuisance, but was freed on account of lack of evidence.